

Message Text

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VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE - SUMMARY OF 60TH MEETING,
DECEMBER 21, 1976 (AFTERNOON)

1. SUMMARY - COMMITTEE CONCLUDED ITEM 97 (ASPECTS OF STRIKE AT GENEVA), APPROVING IN RECORDED VOTES PARTS I, II, AND RESOLUTION AS WHOLE (A/C.5/31/L.36/ REV.2) AS WELL AS FINANCIAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR IT. COMMITTEE REJECTED BY RECORDED VOTE BELGIAN AMENDMENT IN A/C.5/31/L.61 CALLING FOR SUSPENSION OF INTERIM SALARY ADJUSTMENT BEGINNING 1/1/77. ITEM 92 ON ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICES IN UN WAS CONCLUDED, WITH COMMITTEE BY CONSENSUS APPROVING SYG REPORT AND ACABQ RECOMMENDATIONS AND AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,014,000 IN PROGRAM BUDGET. ITEM 94 ON FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF UN WAS DEFERRED UNTIL 32ND SESSION. END SUMMARY

2. ITEM 97 - ASPECTS OF STRIKE AT GENEVA.
ITALY SAID IT COULD SUPPORT DRAFT RESOLUTION IN A/C.5/31/L.36/REV.2.
NETHERLANDS SAID IT COULD NOT SUPPORT BELGIAN AMENDMENT IN L.61
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WHICH WOULD PERMIT GENERAL SERVICE STAFF IN WHO TO OBTAIN INCREASES WHILE REFUSING IT FOR UN STAFF, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO GO BACK ON DECISION MADE, AND ACCEPTED BY STAFF, AT TIME OF STRIKE SETTLEMENT. US(NORBURY) ASSOCIATED HIS DELEGATION WITH CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY OTHERS ABOUT THE WAY THE STRIKE HAD BEEN HANDLED; SUPPORTED JAPANESE AMENDMENT AS PART II; SUPPORTED FIRST

AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY USSR INCORPORATED IN OPERATIVE PARA 4 AND ALSO 2ND AMENDMENT IN OPERATIVE PARA 6 CALLING FOR ABSORPTION OF COSTS OF SALARY INCREASES BY SAVINGS. EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT BELGIAN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD DENY TO SYG AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT SALARY ADJUSTMENT ALREADY NEGOTIATED WITH STAFF. ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTED RETENTION OF OPERATIVE PARA 8 DENYING FURTHER UPWARD ADJUSTMENTS UNTIL FACTS ARE KNOWN. (TEXT POUCHED IO/IBC-HENNES). CANADA IN INTRODUCING L.36/REV 2, SAID COSPONSORS COULD NOT ACCEPT BELGIAN AMENDMENT. SRI LANKA COULD NOT ACCEPT L.61; COULD SUPPORT ADOPTION OF L.36/REV.2 BY CONSENSUS, THOUGH IT HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS RE PART II. GHANA COULD SUPPORT L.61, SAYING GENERAL SERVICE SALARIES IN GENEVA ARE ALREADY TOO HIGH. JAPAN GAVE FOUR REASONS FOR FAVORING L.61; WHILE TRINIDAD/TOBAGO COULD NOT SUPPORT IT. USYG DEBATIN, WHO WAS A NEGOTIATOR DURING STRIKE, SAID COMMITTEE MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO GIVE 4.5 PERCENT INCREASE NEXT JANUARY. THE SALARY SURVEY IN AUGUST 1975 UNDER AUTHORITY OF SYG PROPOSED A HIGHER SALARY INCREASE WHICH WAS REDUCED MORE OR LESS TO REMOVE BACKLOG IN PAY ADJUSTMENT. A NEW SCALE WAS ADOPTED FOR AUGST 1975, WHICH IS STARTING POINT FOR FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS. FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS ARE BASED ON SWISS INDEX OF SALARY MOVEMENTS. THERE IS DISHARMONY BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL SERVICE LEVELS BECAUSE WE HAVE INTERNATIONAL PAY FOR PROFESSIONALS AND LOCAL PREVAILING RATES FOR GENERAL SERVICE. ILO AND WHO HAVE ALREADY APPROVED NEW SCALE. ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM RE CLASSIFICATION OF JOBS BUT THAT IT ISN'T FAIR TO DENY INCREASE TO THOSE DOING A GOOD JOB BECAUSE A FEW ARE UNDESERVING. GHANA PROPOSED TWO AMENDMENTS IN L.36/REV.2:

(1) INSERTION OF QTE WITH SATISFACTION UNQTE IN 4TH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH AND (2) DELETION OF FIRST OPERATIVE PARA, WHICH WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTED BY CO-SPONSORS. THE BELGIAN AMENDMENT (L.61) WAS REJECTED BY 23-42(US)-29. BELGIUM THEN SAID IT WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF L.36/REV.2, KNOWING HIS AMENDMENT WOULD NOT BE ADOPTED, BUT WHICH HE HAD SUBMITTED TO SHOW CONCERN. ROMANIA ASKED FOR SEPARATE VOTES ON PART I AND II, AND US REQUESTED RECORDED VOTES ON BOTH. COMMITTEE ADOPTED PART I WITH AMENDMENTS BY 91(US)-0-2 (CYPRUS, BENIN). PART II WAS ADOPTED BY 77(US)-0-16. RESOLUTION AS WHOLE WAS ADOPTED BY 89(US)-0-2(BENIN,GABON). BY VOTE OF 70(US)-10-5, COMMITTEE APPROVED ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION IN AMOUNT OF \$269,000 UNDER SECTION 22 OF PB 76/77 AND FURTHER AMOUNT OF \$55,000 UNDER SECTION 25 OFFSET BY EQUAL AMOUNT IN IMCOME SECTION 1. LATER BOTH FRG AND ITALY SAID THEY HAD INTENDED TO VOTE QTE YES UNQTE ON FINANCIAL APPROPRIATION AND ASKED THAT RECORDS BE CORRECTED. GREECE SAID IT VOTED IN FAVOR OF PART II BECAUSE IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED FOR OR AGAINST THE RIGHT TO STRIKE. (FOUR VOTING SHEETS POUCHED IO/IBC-MR. HENNES)

3. ITEM 92- ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICE IN UN.

ACABQ CHAIRMAN MSELLE INTRODUCED ITS REPORT, SAYING ACABQ COULD GO ALONG WITH SYG'S REQUEST FOR MANPOWER IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA BUT THOUGHT RENTAL AND OPERATING EXPENSES COULD BE MET WITH EXISTING RESOURCES. SYRIA AND EGYPT BOTH CALLED FOR GREATER SUPPORT BY UN FOR ARABIC AS ONE OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. SYRIA PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF TERMINOLOGY UNIT FOR ARABIC, SAYING IT WOULD NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE. EGYPT ASKED SYG SUBMIT REPORT TO 32ND SESSION OFFERING PROPOSALS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS CONCERNING USE OF ARABIC, AND SUGGESTED INTERPRETERS BE APPOINTED AT P-2 LEVEL AND EXPERIENCED INTERPRETERS AT P-3 AND P-4 LEVEL. BY CONSENSUS COMMITTEE DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO GA THAT IT (1) TAKE NOTE OF SYG REPORT IN A/C.5/31/60 AND APPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN PARAGRAPHS 14-25 OF THAT REPORT; (2) CONCUR WITH OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACABQ IN A/31/8/ADD.26; AND (3) APPROVE A NET ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,014,000 UNDER PB 1976/77 AS INDICATED IN PARA 15 OF ACABQ REPORT, WITH THIS ITEM WAS CONCLUDED.

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4. ITEM 94 - FINANCIAL EMERGENCY OF UN

AMB. BOATEN, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF 54, INTRODUCED REPORT CONTAINED IN A/31/37; SAID HIS COMMITTEE IS NOT MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOLVING FINANCIAL SITUATION BECAUSE A CONSENSUS AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED. HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT FOR WANT OF TRYING BUT BECAUSE OF LACK OF POLITICAL WILL ON PART OF SOME. SAUDI ARABIA (BAROODY) SPOKE ON HIS AMENDMENT (A/C.5/31/L.4)- URGING MEMBER STATES TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND TO SAVE UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES FROM FINANCIAL STRINGENCY AND TO LEVY A TAX OF ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT ON VALUE OF ARMS PRODUCTION AND TO REMIT PROCEEDS TO SPECIAL FUND. SAID HE WOULD REFER HIS RESOLUTION TO NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE AND TO SYG IN ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS OF MAKING IT EFFECTIVE. PAKISTAN (KEMAL) INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION IN A/C.5/31/L.57/REV.1, CALLING FOR DEFERRAL OF REPORT OF NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE UNTIL 32ND SESSION, AND MEANWHILE HAVE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE KEEP SUBJECT UNDER REVIEW. THE FIFTH COMMITTEE THEN BY CONSENSUS DECIDED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF REPORT UNTIL 32ND SESSION. FOLLOWING DEFERRAL, PHILIPPINES SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATE TO INSERT A PREAMBULAR PARA QTE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACCUMULATING DEFICIT OF THE UN UNQTE. NEW ZEALAND EXPRESSED PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT THAT SOME COUNTRIES SHOWED NO SIGNS OF MAKING CONCESSIONS IN ANY AREA AND HOPED NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE CAN IN FUTURE PRESENT CONCRETE PROPOSALS ON WHICH GA CAN TAKE ACTION TO OVERCOME FINANCIAL SITUATION. ITEM 94 WAS CONCLUDED.

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